

REMARKS

Claims 1-15 are pending in the application.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-15 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mann in view of Monahan. However, Applicants respectfully maintain that neither Mann nor Monahan, alone or in combination, provide the subject matter of the rejected claims. As the Examiner correctly notes, Mann does not disclose, as recited in Applicant's claim 1, a method comprising storing a plurality of content categories, and identifying, according to properties returned by a plurality of search engines, at least one search engine suited to service a query having at least one content category of the plurality of content categories.

Applicant's claimed method identifies, from a plurality of search engines, at least one search engine suited to service a query. The identification of the at least one search engine in the Applicant's claimed method is according to properties returned by the plurality of search engines. Mann discloses a system for generating unique top-level domain names. Mann identifies unique domain names by checking desired domain names against lists of registered domain names that are held at pre-determined locations or websites (col 4, lines 30-35; col 5, lines 34-37 and col 6, lines 1-3). Applicants note that Mann does not disclose identifying, according to properties returned by a plurality of search engines, at least one search engine suited to service a query-as-claimed-by-Applicants. Rather, Applicants note that not only does Mann disclose and rely on only one search engine and one search engine alone – the search function that is recited repeatedly in Mann's specification (col 4, lines 30-35; col 5, lines 34-37 and col 6, lines 1-3) and shown in FIG. 5A as item 504 (col 7, lines 5-9) – but that Mann, as a result, also fails to recite the identification of that search engine according to properties returned by a plurality of search engines. Applicants respectfully maintain that Mann fails to do so because Mann has no need for properties returned by a plurality of search engines when Mann has pre-selected a single search engine. Thus, Applicants respectfully maintain that Mann does

not disclose a plurality of search engines precisely because Mann's invention is directed at generating unique domain names using a system that checks desired domain names against pre-existing domain names stored in predetermined data sources. Given that Mann's system accesses and searches predetermined data sources there is no need for Mann to disclose the use of multiple search engines because Mann's system already knows where the data is located.

In addition, Monahan fails to correct the deficiencies of Mann with regard to the teaching of identifying, according to a properties returned by a plurality of search engines, at least one search engine suited to service a query. Rather, Monahan teaches and describes a system for communicating selected search results between first and second entities over a network. While Monahan mentions that multiple distinct search engines exist (col 1, lines 14-25), Monahan does so not to disclose any use of one search engine selected from a plurality of search engines in service of a query but, rather, to remark upon the varied nature of the search results that distinct search engines produce and the need to cull undesired information from those search results (col 2, lines 17-18). Hence, Monahan fails to teach the claimed limitation recognized by the Examiner as not being disclosed by Mann.

In addition, were Monahan to correct the deficiencies of Mann, which Applicants maintain Monahan does not, Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's assertion that it would be obvious to combine Mann with Monahan. In particular, Applicants respectfully note that the Examiner has failed to point to any motivation in either Mann and/or Monahan that would lead a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of Applicant's invention to modify the teachings of Mann with the teachings of Monahan. Applicants maintain that the Examiner has pointed to a teaching of Monahan (col 1, lines 26-33) that simply describes the function of a search engine – to direct "visitors to a particular web site." Nothing about the cited teaching in Monahan would motivate a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of Applicant's invention

to modify Mann's teaching of a system for generating unique domain names to include the claimed limitation of identifying, according to a properties returned by a plurality of search engines, at least one search engine suited to service a query because, at best, modifying Mann to include this limitation would serve no useful purpose given that Mann teaches a system whereby information in the form of lists of pre-existing domain names is stored in known locations and hence there is no need for Mann to utilize a plurality of search engines.

It is therefore respectfully requested that the Examiner withdraw his rejection of claims 1-15.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully asserted that all of the claims pending in this patent application are in condition for allowance.

The required fee for a two month extension of time is enclosed. Should it be determined that an additional fee is due under 37 CFR §§1.16 or 1.17, or any excess fee has been received, please charge that fee or credit the amount of overcharge to deposit account #02-2666.

If the Examiner has any questions, she is invited to contact the undersigned at (310) 252-7605. Reconsideration of this patent application and early allowance of all the claims is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



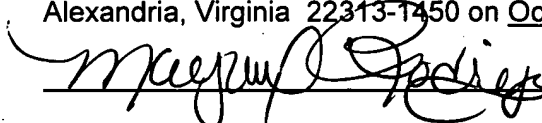
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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail with sufficient postage in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Fee Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, Post Office Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 on October 27, 2003.



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October 27, 2003